Another vital element of building was lime, and Midway had several kilns where lime was produced. *576*

Early producers of lime selected suitable mounds or hills where they could dig a kiln into the hill. They then sealed off the kiln to create a virtual oven and burned the lime rock for several days to take away the impurities and form a sticky lime powder.

The first kiln probably was the Snake Den kiln, owned by William Van Wagoner Sr. He used a mound or hill that was about the same size and shape as the one at the Homestead. Mr. Van Wagoner produced lime that was tested as 98 per cent pure, and shipped it to all parts of the country.

In addition to its use as a building material, lime was also used as a whitening agent in sugar. Many sugar factories in Utah purchased lime produced in the Midway area.

Lime Canyon kiln was probably built next, but the rock was too hard and failed to burn properly, so the kiln failed. Another kiln was built west and south of the Fox Den, southeast of Midway. The rock here had no weight and so the lime would not sell, causing the failure of this kiln in a short time.

In 1905 another lime kiln was erected on the Huber farm by Fred Barben, but he failed to build his kiln far enough into the hill, so that the outside of the structure kept breaking away, allowing the heat to escape.

The second successful kiln was built on Memorial Hill and lasted many years. It was first owned by John Van Wagoner and his brother, William. Fred Haueter Sr. tended the fires.

Three days and nights of steady burning were required to finish a kiln of lime. White pine wood was used to keep the fires going. Some tried to use coal, but this proved unsatisfactory, since the heat from the coal stayed too close to the bed of coals and did not penetrate through the lime rock.

Mr. Haueter, who tended the fires, would stay awake during an entire burning job, sawing the cord wood as it was needed. The fires had to be kept at an even, steady heat to produce the proper sticking in the lime.

Fred O. Haueter, followed in his father's footsteps at the lime kiln, and later bought the business from the Van Wagoner brothers. Young Mr. Haueter continued to use his father's method of burning, and sawed the wood as he would burn a kiln. His business was very successful and he continued for many years.

Lime was sold by the bushel, and usually could be purchased for about 15 to 20 cents per bushel. Some 150 pounds of unburned lime rock were required to produce 50 to 60 pounds of finished lime.

John Peterson and Royal Huffaker assisted Mr. Haueter at times in the kiln. The last lime taken from this kiln was used in building the

Midway Town Hall. The lime used was burned by Fred O. Haueter in 1939-41. Others to work at the trade were Thomas Bonner, Henry T. Coleman and Nephi Huber.